



503.38156X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): YOSHIOKA, et al.

Serial No.: 09/493,104

Filed: January 28, 2000

For: METHOD OF PROCESSING SPECIMENS, AND APPARATUS THEREFOR AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF A MAGNETIC HEAD

Group: 1746

Examiner: A. Olsen

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AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 20, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 - 8 and 13 - 22 as follows:

1. (three times amended) A method of processing a specimen comprising:
a first step of etching a specimen, which is a lamination layer formed on a substrate and includes at least one layer made of NiFe alloy or NiFeCo alloy, by gas plasma with a gas which contains chlorine at a temperature of the specimen below 200°C in an etching chamber;
a second step of removing a residual chlorine component deposited on an